

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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NAIROBI FOR REDSO

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID LT

SUBJECT: LESOTHO SOUTHERN PERIMETER ROAD (690-0076)

REF: A) MASERU 781 B) MASERU 734

1. SUMMARY: THE SHORTFALL IN FUNDS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE LESOTHO SOUTHERN PERIMETER ROAD FROM MOHALES HOEK TO QACHA'S NEK THREATENS A MAJOR DELAY IN GETTING STARTED ON THIS PRIORITY PROJECT. THIS MESSAGE IS TO URGE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM ASAP, PREFERABLY BY FOCUSING ON POSSIBILITY OF UN-ADMINISTERED FUNDS RELATED TO UN ASYG FARAH'S RECENT EFFORTS.

ACTION REQUESTED: THAT STATE AND AID/W EXPLORE ON URGENT BASIS POSSIBILITY OF UN ARRANGING FUNDING TO ENABLE NEXT

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STEPS IN ROAD PROJECT TO BE CARRIED OUT. END SUMMARY.

2. AS OUTLINED IN REFTELS, UNTIL FULL FUNDING OF THE LESOTHO ROAD PROJECT IS ARRANGED, THE PROCEDURES TO MOVE TO NEXT STAGE (AID PROJECT AUTHORIZATION AND FINAL ENGINEERING DESIGN) COME TO A HALT. CONSULTATIONS HAVE APPROPRIATELY INVOLVED GOL FULLY IN THE PROBLEM--AND IN

SEEKING A SOLUTION. THE HIGH DEGREE OF GOL INTEREST (E.G., REF A) IS GUARANTEE THAT GOL IS NOT LIKELY TO REMAIN PASSIVE IN ACCEPTING EXTENDED DELAY. THIS WILL BE ALL THE MORE EVIDENT WHEN GOL HOPES ARE NOT REALIZED THAT US MIGHT MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN \$25 MILLION AND THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO UNDERTAKE ONE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OPTIONS (REF B).

3. IN CASTING ABOUT FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FUNDS TO GET THIS PRIORITY PROJECT MOVING, WE RECALL SITUATION A YEAR AGO WHEN UN-SPONSORED PROCEDURES WERE DEVELOPED TO RESPOND TO THE FIRST FARAH MISSION REPORT ON LESOTHO AND BOTSWANA. UNDER THE PROCEDURES, FUNDS WERE TRANSMITTED BY DONORS DIRECTLY TO A UNHCR-ADMINISTERED ACCOUNT. UNDP COULD PROVIDE SIMILAR SERVICES NOW FOR A NON-REFUGEE RELATED PROGRAM. A SECOND UN (FARAH) MISSION HAS JUST REVIEWED SITUATION ON THE LESOTHO-TRANSKEI BORDER. IF THE FIRST FARAH MISSION EXAMPLE IS FOLLOWED, THE REPORT WILL BE REVIEWED BY A UN BODY AND DONOR PLEDGES OF ASSISTANCE SOLICITED. IF SOME OF THIS ASSISTANCE WERE NOT DESIGNED FOR A SPECIFIC PROJECT, IT WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GOL OR ADMINISTERED AS A "SPECIAL UN FUND" TO COVER SHORTFALL. PRIORITY USE OF THESE FUNDS TO COVER ROAD SHORTFALL SHOULD BE CLEAR TO UN AND TO PROSPECTIVE DONORS BECAUSE EFFECTIVENESS OF ALMOST ALL AID TO REGION DEPENDS SUBSTANTIALLY ON BASIC TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

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4. SINCE OTHER OPTIONS ARE NOT PROMISING, I URGE THAT THIS POSSIBILITY BE THOROUGHLY EXPLORED. FACT IS THAT LESOTHO IS A TRULY LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY; THE TOTAL ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO ITS OWN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BUDGET DURING THREE-YEAR PERIOD 1975-77 AVERAGED BETWEEN \$4 AND \$5 MILLION AND IT CANNOT BE EXPECTED, REALISTICALLY, TO COVER SHORTFALL ITSELF. IN ADDITION, COMING UN DISCUSSIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL NO DOUBT RESULT IN STATEMENTS STRONGLY SUPPORTING GOL AND ITS REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE TRANSKEI AS A BY-PRODUCT OF APARTHEID. COUNTRIES GIVING VOCAL SUPPORT COULD BE URGED TO SHOW, E.G., BY MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, THAT THEIR WORDS ARE NOT SIMPLY RHETORIC. A NEW FARAH FUND COULD BECOME AN OPPORTUNITY FOR UN MEMBERS TO DEMONSTRATE REAL CONCERN BY CONTRIBUTING TO LESOTHO ROAD PROJECT (FOR WHICH US IS ALREADY PUTTING UP \$25 MILLION).

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT STATE AND AID/W CONCERT EFFORTS TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING UP TO \$16 MILLION FOR GOL ROAD PROJECT, WITH MINIMUM OF \$4 MILLION REQUIRED TO COVER PREFERRED OPTION (PARA 3.C,

REF B). THIS ACTION MUST BE UNDERTAKEN RAPIDLY IF FULL
FORCE OF GOL IMPATIENCE IS NOT TO FALL ON US.
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